

THE SENATE CAPITAL.

The Rural Legislators Giving a Finishing Touch to the Charter.

A GLOOMY SITUATION.

Rumors as to the Custom House, Park's Plans and Prospects.

The Charter Reported in the Senate from the Committee of the Whole.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION COMPANY.

Country Members Refuse to Give the City a Guarantee Against Imposition.

Extension of City Railroad Tracks.

Steam on Horse Railroads—The Money Lock-Ups To Be Looked After.

ALBANY, April 8, 1873. There were no Custom House men here to-day awaiting the fate of the charter, unless we except Ed. Webster, who had happened in on his way home from Buffalo. Murphy and Bliss and Davenport were conspicuously absent. The ante-room and cloakroom looked almost bare, and the Senate Chamber dull and dreary without them. Among the notables present were George M. Vannort, Sheridan, Shook, Ben Wood and Dan Conover, as mixed a political representation as could be desired. Among these there were various reports as to the cause of the absence of the Custom House men. The most probable seems to be that the charter, as reported, is of their brain—has been checked so widely out of their own strings that they have deserted it altogether.

IN THEIR DEBILITATION even those whom they trusted have rejected them. One prominent head of a department is said to have openly expressed his disagreement with these political chiefs on several points considered vital to the general agreement, and Sheridan Shook has been heard to declare that the Custom House clique do not represent any party but themselves. It is even said that Woodin rejects Custom House interference, and as Speaker Cornell was seen this morning, apparently the last upon the Custom House tree, diligently whispering in his ear, it is possible that they do not contemplate an open rejection of the further advice and co-operation of Bliss, Jr., and Davenport. At any rate, the stock of the Custom House bill is low.

It has fallen most disastrously since Friday last, and it is now to be safely assumed that the charter to be eliminated from all these conflicting elements and adverse interests will become a law far more favorable to Haveny than to Bliss and Davenport. Still, we know not what an afternoon's wire-pulling may do. It may be the policy of the Custom House men to lay low for a while and spring their trap only when the bill gets into the hands of the conference committee.

EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION. In the discussion in Committee of the Whole on the bill Senator Murphy succeeded in having struck out the clause of the 10th section, which relates to the taxation of the property of the Corporation now building on the corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue, and Mr. Benedict moved to strike out the section, which generally treats of exemption. But at the request of Mr. Woodin he withdrew the motion to permit that gentleman to offer the following substitute for the section:

No real estate or buildings other than such as are exempt by general law shall be exempt from taxation. Mr. Woodin said that he had assurances from the Chairman of the Finance Committee that the bill would be passed at once, and he would not move to amend it. Senator Benedict thought the subject was one only for a general law, and he moved to amend the bill. Senator Tremain said the substitute would repeal the special laws by which the Juvenile Asylum, the Catholic Protection Society, and other charitable institutions are now exempt, and would compel many others to close up at once. Senator Murphy moved to amend the bill, which would be served the same way—the Convention of the Sacred Heart, the Temperance Society, the Mendocino Musical Association and others. Mr. Woodin's substitute was adopted by a vote of 6 to 1, all the New York members voting against it. Mr. Benedict thereupon renewed his motion to strike out the whole section, and the bill was passed.

SO SWEEPING A BLOW at the charitable institutions of New York could be dependent on the time or wish of the Legislature to pass a general law, and the result of an oration upon any accident that may happen to delay action upon it. The whole section was finally stricken out.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM. Mr. Woodin suggested a number of verbal amendments, necessary only to secure the grammatical construction of the bill. One amendment to the ninety-sixth section, relative to contracts for public work, provided for certain works to be done by contract, and the bill was passed. The subject of sharp discussion, during which quite a deluge of the contract system was entered upon; and it was finally decided to leave the subject to the Legislature.

ON PROPOSITION TO GIVE THE Mayor, Corporation Counsel and Commissioner of Public Works to the Board of Appointment, Senator Johnson, the leading democratic orator of the Senate, who has hitherto kept quiet in respect to the bill, now came forward, fighting republicans, and moved to amend to give the power alone to the Mayor. Then he charged the republicans, who helped to elect Haveny, with the power to refuse to trust him even with the power to say in what papers advertisements for contracts may be inserted, and he moved to amend to give the power to the Mayor. The bill was passed.

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Mr. Dion Boucicault's comedy "Old Heads and Young Hearts" was produced at the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night, with Mr. George H. Griffiths in his well-known part of Jesse Rual, and an otherwise efficient cast. Mr. George Clarke played Littleton Coke; Mr. Louis James, Tom Coke; Mr. T. Kington, Lord Charles Roebuck; Mr. G. F. Devere, Earl Pompton; Mr. D. Whiting, Colonel Rocker; and Mr. James Lewis, Bob. The ladies were Miss Fanny Davenport as Lady Alice and Miss Linda Dietz as Kate Roebuck. The piece was beautifully mounted and well acted throughout, but the action sometimes lacked the spirit which the company generally exhibits. It was not until the third act that the house could be brought into sympathy with the players, but when this was once attained the interest was kept up till the end. Aside from Mr. Griffiths' Jesse Rual, a part which calls for no special criticism, there is little to say except what we have already indicated as the attribute of the performance—general excellence. With a cast in which a thoroughly trained actor, and a well-known actor, a servant, it could scarcely be otherwise, but there were faults in the performance, aside from the faults of the first and second acts. Miss Davenport's Lady Alice was both coarse and commonplace, and Miss Linda Dietz's Kate Roebuck was thoroughly unattractive. In the first act, however, Miss Davenport recovered herself, and played the scenes with Littleton Coke and the Duke of Devonshire with a fine and natural feeling that she usually exhibits. Mr. Griffiths' Jesse Rual was a neat little study, admirably presented. But, above the faults and superior to the excellences of the others, were the sweet simplicity and unobtrusive awkwardness of Mr. Griffiths' Jesse Rual. His acting shines through the piece, not with a middling business, but with a mellow light that shines cheerily, if it never dazzles. A remarkable feature of the audience at the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night, when it is remembered that this is Holy Week, was its numbers. This large assemblage gives promise of still larger ones, and it is probable that the play will be continued. We understand that Mr. Daly contemplates some important improvements in the surroundings of his theatre, and that he will be able to do so in the near future. The play will be continued.

There is to be a burlesque performance of "Lady Macbeth" at Dan Bryant's Opera House this afternoon.

The production of Sardou's "André" (Agnes) at Paris was not so great a success as his plays usually are, the Parisians being apparently offended because it was first produced in this country.

The Almira Opera Bouffe Company is announced to appear at the Academy of Music on the 17th and 18th of April, and at a matinee on the 19th, with "La Grande Duchesse," "Les Cent Vierges," and "La Perichole."

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